



Report to Prudhoe Town Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September

## **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO PARTNERSHIP**

### **Summary**

At the joint meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June, Councillors asked for a report on the implications of nominating a representative to the Partnership board. This report contains some background information about the Partnership for the benefit of new Councillors and explains the structure of the Board to enable Councillors to make a decision.

### **Background**

Prudhoe Community Partnership was established 1998 to contribute to the regeneration of the town. It was established as a charity so that it could apply for funding that was not available to statutory bodies.

For the first 15 years, the Partnership employed development staff with funding from the Market Town Initiative and other sources but for the past five years the general work of the Partnership has depended on the voluntary work undertaken by trustees and supporters.

The Partnership was endowed with four shops on Front Street when by Tynedale Council when it was dissolved which provides some general income for the charity. This is currently used to engage help for specific projects including recently the feasibility study for East Centre.

### **Achievements**

Over the years, the Partnership has enabled the development of a number of new groups in the town such as the Older Peoples Forum, Prudhoe Community Allotment and Prudhoe Pathforce. It also handled funding for improving the appearance of the shops on Front Street.

The greatest achievement has been the asset transfer of the old library building and the rebuilding on the same site of Spetchells Centre as a 'one stop shop' for advice and community services at the heart of the town. Providing the building is full let, rental income services the mortgage, pays for the salary of the Manager and maintenance of the building.

## **Current activities**

The partnership is currently involved in:

- A town survey reported in outline to AGM in July and due to be presented to members on October 16<sup>th</sup>
- Improving access to shops for people with disabilities and planning to take part in the Purple Tuesday event on November 13<sup>th</sup>
- Hosting, with Hexham and Haltwhistle Partnerships, a locality facilitator on behalf of Northumbria Health Care Trust to map and develop local assets
- Sponsoring leadership courses for local people run by Mortal Fools
- Organising Spetchells Christmas Fair in support as part Christmas lights switch on.

## **Membership of the Board**

Anyone living or working in Prudhoe is able to become a member of the Partnership. There is no membership subscription. Members are consulted on major issues and receive reports on activities. There are currently 30 members with a membership drive taking place this year.

The Memorandum and Articles requires the members of the Partnership to elect or appoint the Board as follows

- 10 individual members who must live or work in Prudhoe
- A nominee of Northumberland County Council ( currently Ken Stow)
- A nominee of Prudhoe Town Council ( vacant following Eileen Burt's retirement)

Councillors have raised the question as to whether their nominee is a mandated representative or free to vote as they wish. In practice, this has not been an issue as members declare conflicts of interest and votes are rarely taken.

It is invaluable to the Partnership to have a nominee of the Town Council in order to improve communication and be aware of each others activities. Trustees very much hope that the Town Council will decide to make a nomination to the Board which meets on a Tuesday evening six times a year.

## **George Hepburn (Chair of trustees)**

**19<sup>th</sup> September 2018**